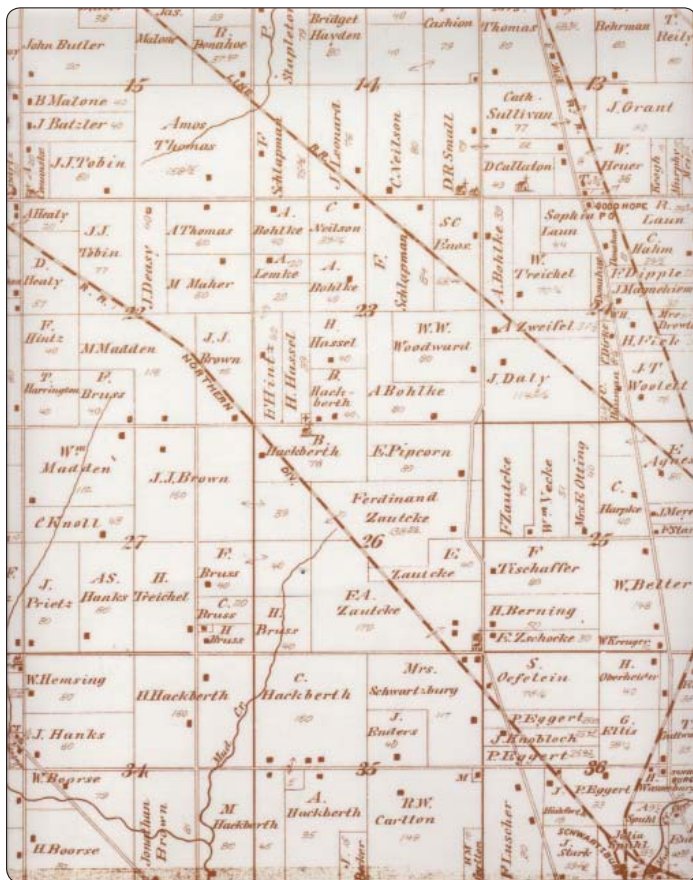


Mystery Photo 2

You can find the railroad bridge in this photo by walking the limestone road that leads south from the building. Follow the curve to the right and continue on the limestone road—walking parallel to the railroad tracks. At Lincoln Creek, pause on the bridge and look south. To recreate the photo, you will have to wait for a dry day, climb down the slope, and stand under the auto bridge!

This railroad tunnel has always intrigued and confused me! I am impressed that a structure built in 1911 stood firm through all the changes that transpired around it. In 1911, Milwaukee County was purchasing farm fields to build a County House of Correction on this land. Was the railroad bridge part of the upgrades needed to accommodate the prison?

We don't know much about the railroads that border Havenwoods. To the best of our knowledge, the Milwaukee, Fond du Lac & Green Bay Railroad Company laid these railroad tracks in 1853. (Shortly after that, the company apparently went bankrupt.) This 1876 map shows how the diagonal tracks cut through farmers' fields. It must have been a huge inconvenience to cross the tracks to farm those triangles of land. There was at least one crossing. We know



this because of a court case involving a broken fence, a runaway horse, and a locomotive. But that is a story for another time!

According to maps from the 1850s, Lincoln Creek didn't exist, so there would have been no need for a railroad bridge here at that time. However, as the land was cleared and the wetland areas to the north were drained, farmers must have needed to create a ditch here to handle runoff from storms. The 1876 map shows a creek (Mud Creek) just south of the railroad.

By 1911, the ditch/creek must have been large enough to require this concrete bridge. I was excited to find another piece of the puzzle last winter as I looked through a document that I had seen many times before. But this time, as I read it, one line jumped off the page at me. It mentioned something about a farm drain. With help from city employees, I located a document dated November 1930 that described the establishment of Milwaukee County Farm Drain No. 21 on the north side of Milwaukee. The drawing in that document traces the path of Lincoln Creek! Several mysteries remain. Did Mud Creek become Lincoln Creek? If so, when and why was it renamed? The first time that I have found the creek labeled "Lincoln Creek" is on a United States Army blueprint from 1945. I suppose a good mystery is never completely solved, but if you can add any information to this one, please do!